Clatsop County Historical Society Quarterly

CUMTUX

Vol. 42, No. 4 — Fall 2022

CCHS PHOTO COLLECTIONS

LARRY ZIAK

It is with heavy hearts that we need to let you know that Larry Ziak, our custodian for the past fifteen years, collapsed on August 15, 2022 and passed away shortly afterwards.

Larry was quirky, old school in his respect and manners, humble, gentle, clever, intelligent, hardworking, thrifty, resourceful, and always seemed to have a twinkle in his eye. He was so much more than a custodian: he moved tables and chairs, cleaned, painted, weeded and pruned in the garden, mowed lawns at the Heritage Museum and Firefighter's Museum, moved supplies for offices and gift shops, always making us aware of supplies that were running low. He did a thousand things that go unnoticed by most of our visitors. Larry always greeted each of us with "what can I do for you today?"

He was so private and never wanted to attend any of our staff or volunteer get togethers. Yet, for so many of us, he was family. We will cherish his friendship, dedication, tireless efforts, and his unique perspective. We will fondly remember so many moments with Larry.

Clatsop County Historical Society
714 Exchange St.
P.O. Box 88
Astoria, Oregon 97103-0088
(503) 325-2203
info@astoriamuseums.org
www.astoriamuseums.org

Heritage Museum
16th and Exchange St., Astoria

Flavel House Museum
8th and Duane St., Astoria

Oregon Film Museum
7th and Duane St., Astoria

Uppertown Firefighters Museum
30th and Marine Drive, Astoria

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Front Cover: photo by Carl Schultz
Nils Lofgren

CUMTUX: Chinook jargon: "To know…to inform"

The Lofgren Sons Come to America

By the Editor

Kyle Jansson, who is well known to historians around the state as the Oregon Heritage Commission Coordinator from 2002 to 2016, sent the following message:

"You probably already know that Nils Lofgren, who has been a guitarist for Bruce Springsteen for a quarter century, has roots in Astoria. His father lived in Astoria for about twenty years before moving to Chicago, where Nils was born in 1951. Nils and I are something like fourth cousins, with our ancestors living in the central Swedish province of Värmland and before 1600 in Finland. Here is what I wrote about Nils.

Nils Lofgren, a musician who has played with Neil Young and Bruce Springsteen, was born June 21, 1951, in Chicago. His great-×7 grandfather, Mickel Israelsson, was a grandson of Påvel Olofsson Suhoinen and a great-×7 grandfather of mine.

Lofgren's father, Adolf, was three years old when he left Värmland to move to Astoria, Oregon, with his parents. Nils Lofgren grew up in Maryland. He began playing the accordion at age five, with traditional Swedish folk songs as part of his repertoire. "I still play Swedish folk music," he said in a recent interview. "The melodies are beautiful."

Lofgren became a professional musician at age seventeen and joined Neil Young's band. He played piano and guitar and sang on Young's platinum album "After the Gold Rush."

Photo by Carl Schultz

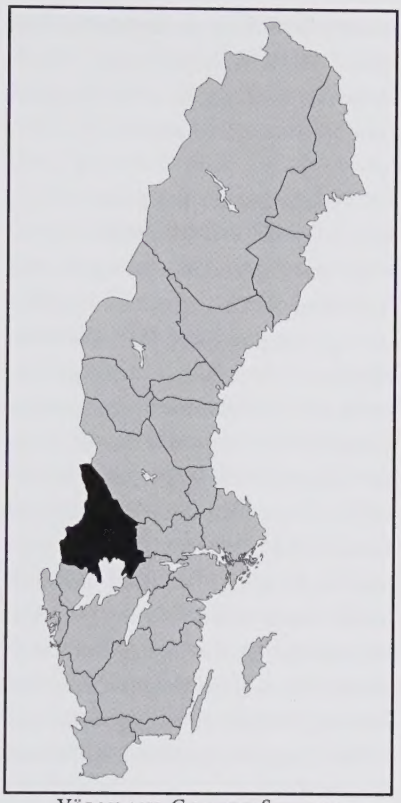
Nils Lofgren

His first solo album was "Nils Lofgren" in 1975. He joined Springsteen's E Street Band as guitarist in May 1984 and continues to play for the band. He joined Ringo Starr's All-Starr Band in 1989 for its world tour and played or recorded with Branford Marsalis, Cab Calloway, Patti Scialfa, Willie Nelson, Graham Nash, David Crosby, Martin Sexton. Margo Reed, Mary Ann Redmond, Tom Lepson, Bob Berberich and the Lofgren Brothers.

Kyle Jansson added:

"My grandfather came to the U. S. from Sunne in 1907. Actually, a farm several miles west of Sunne called Backetorp. We've been around Sunne-Torsby-Grasmark-Lysvik area since the Swedes started keeping records."

Kyle Jansson,
Monmouth, Oregon U.SA.



Värmland County, Sweden

Astoria's Lofgren Family

In December 2021, *Saturday Night Live* featured a performance of Bruce Springsteen's Band with Nils Lofgren as guitarist. Nil's father, uncles and aunts, grandfather and grandmother, and great-uncles lived in the Astoria area, went to school, and worked here. If you shopped or worked in Astoria from the 1950s to the 1970s, chances are you saw members of the Lofgren family every week. Carl Lofgren was a mail carrier whose route covered the shops downtown. His brother Harry was the butcher at Safeway, and their cousin Walter was the union "rep" for culinary and tavern workers. Except for one or two persons, all those with the Lofgren surname in Astoria directories belonged to one family. The Astoria family might have disap-

State and local dignitaries with President John F. Kennedy at Tongue Point on S
photo is Senator Maurine Neuberger, the only woman elected

CCHS IMAGE #1316

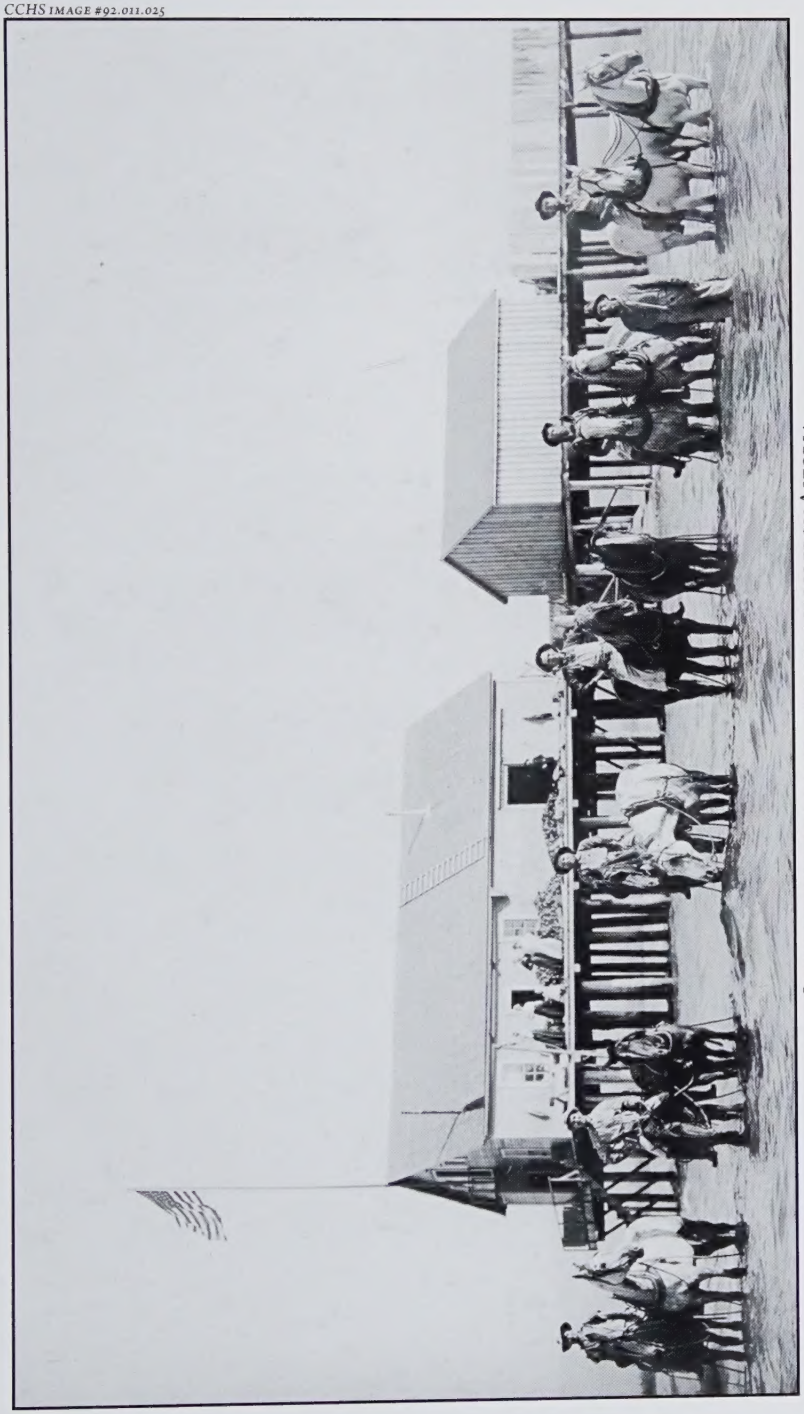
BER 27, 1963. WALTER LOFGREN IS THE SECOND MAN BEHIND PRESIDENT. ON THE LEFT IN THIS
U.S. SENATE FROM OREGON, ACCOMPANIED THE PRESIDENT TO ASTORIA.

CCHS IMAGE # 00.191.368.001

above: MEN GATHERING SALMON IN SEINING NET.
below: THREE UNIDENTIFIED HORSER SEINING FISHERMEN.

CCHS IMAGE #97.005.016

CCHS IMAGE #92.011.025



Seining operation on tidal island across from Astoria.

Image courtesy of David Tennant.

Astoria High School Class of 1958, forty year reunion in 1998. This year will be our sixty-fifth.